



## State of Utah

### Department of Natural Resources

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### Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

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*Governor*

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*Lieutenant Governor*

May 4, 2004

TO: File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PPB*

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Gypsum Resource Development, White Cap #8 Mine, S/015/047, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 7, 2004  
Time of Inspection: About 11:50 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.  
Conditions: Mostly cloudy, 60's  
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

#### **Purpose of Inspection:**

The operator has been in contact with the BLM, the Emery County Roads Department, and the Division about reclaiming this site. I wanted to see whether there had been any recent activity and to remind myself of the site conditions.

#### **Getting to the site:**

The mine is right next to the road leading to the Wedge Overlook and is about two miles south of the Buckhorn Well.

#### **Observations:**

There has been no recent activity. I was impressed with the amount of native vegetation that has naturally invaded in areas that have remained undisturbed for a few years. Note the shrubs and grasses on the topsoil pile in Photo 1 and on the berms in Photo 2.

There is at least one small ephemeral drainage that has been blocked by the mine (Photo 3).

Other views of the site are in Photos 4 and 5.

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Inspection Date: April 7, 2004; Report Date: May 4, 2004

### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

When the site is reclaimed, the operator will need to make a channel to carry the water in the drainage shown in Photo 3. I don't think much water comes down this drainage, but there does appear to be some.

The surface of the reclaimed site should be left very rough and uncompacted, and I believe it is also very important that some rock be placed on the surface. The concept is not to create a gravel mulch layer. Rather, other mines have good success with about 25-50 percent cover from native rock, especially coarse gypsum. This seems to increase water infiltration and allow for better vegetation establishment and growth. If the operator follows these steps and seeds the site in the late fall, about November but no later than December, the chances of revegetation success are reasonably good despite the very difficult revegetation environment.

PBB:jb

cc: Curtis Larkin, Gypsum Resource Development  
Dean Nyffeler, Price BLM

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## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

S/015/047, White Cap #8 Mine, Gypsum Resource Development  
Inspection Dated: April 7, 2004; Report Dated: May 4, 2004



Photo 1. Topsoil piles to the southwest of the mine.



Photo 2. Road and berm on the west edge of the mine.



Photo 3. Ephemeral drainage coming in from the west.



Photo 4. View of part of the quarry looking approximately southeast.



## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

S/015/047, White Cap #8 Mine, Gypsum Resource Development

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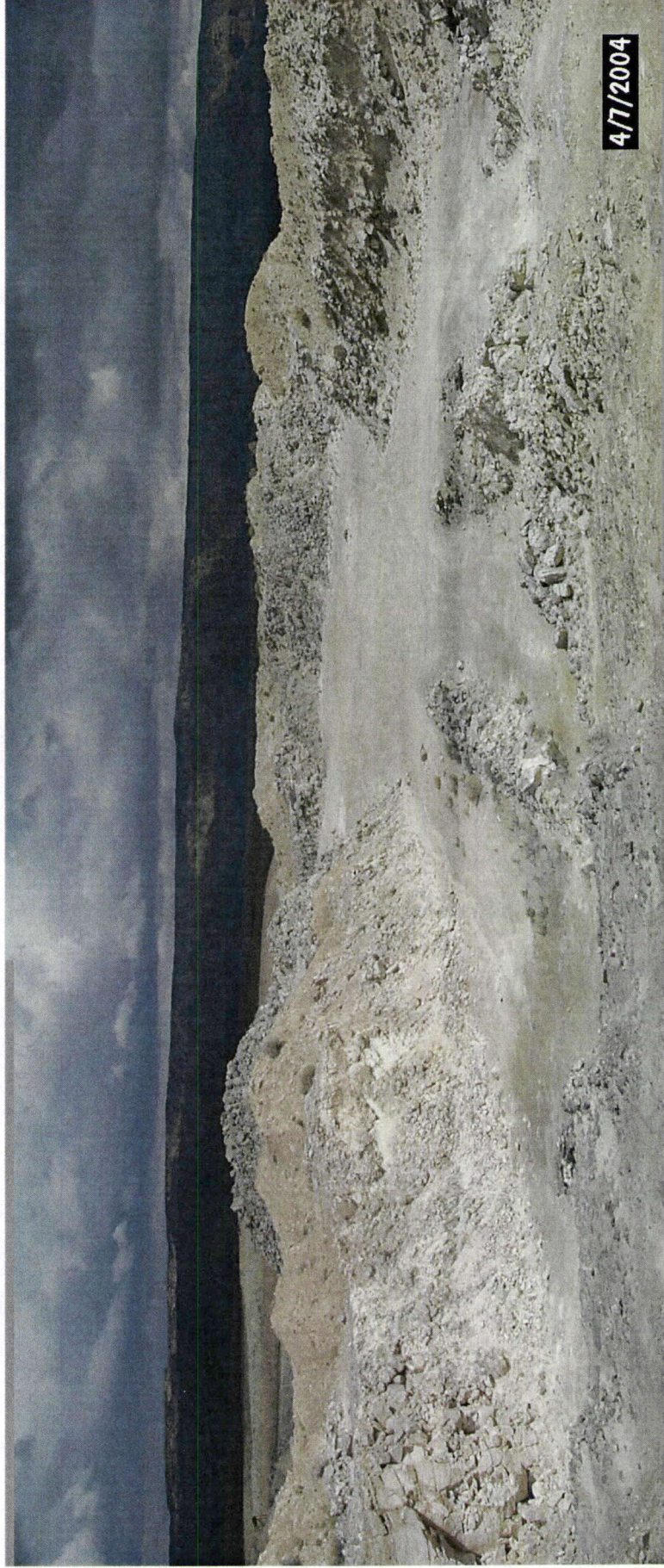


Photo 5. Panorama of a portion of the quarry looking approximately northeast.